



Honorable Walter J. Brudzinski

Chief Administrative Law Judge
U.S. Coast Guard



Chief Judge Brudzinski has been a Coast Guard Administrative Law Judge since 2003 and was appointed Chief Administrative Law Judge in June 2013. Coast Guard Administrative Law Judges hear and decide Merchant Mariner Credential suspension and revocation cases as well as cases initiated by the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies the Coast Guard supports. In 2003-2004 he was temporarily assigned additional duties to hear cases for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and the George Mason University School of Law (with distinction) where he was a member of Law Review. Chief Judge Brudzinski also holds a Master's and Ph.D. in Judicial Studies from the University of Nevada and has earned Certificates in Judicial Development in Administrative Law, Dispute Resolution, and General Jurisdiction Trial Skills from the National Judicial College.



Chief Judge Brudzinski authored the following articles: *Is chemical drug and alcohol testing of commercial vessel personnel effective?* 3 MARITIME PROFESSIONAL 50 (3Q, 2013); *U.S. Coast Guard's administrative adjudication: Unbiased and fair*, 1 MARITIME PROFESSIONAL 12 (3Q, 2011); *Coast Guard administrative proceedings in drug cases resemble the civil law tradition*, 42 J. MAR. L. & COM. 159 (2011); *Mandatory drug testing of merchant marine personnel*, THE MARITIME EXECUTIVE, April 13, 2010; and, *Greater independence for ALJs plus cost savings for agencies: The Coast Guard Model*, 30 J.NAALJ 1 (2010).

Initially appointed U.S. Administrative Law Judge in 1996 with the Social Security Administration, Chief Judge Brudzinski was previously an Assistant and later Deputy Commonwealth's Attorney for Virginia Beach. He also served in the U.S. Coast Guard as a commissioned officer both afloat and ashore and as a judge advocate. His assignments as a judge advocate included the Headquarters Office of Legislation and the Office of Regulations and Administrative Law; the Fifth District Legal Office; and, as the Legal Officer at Training Center Yorktown where he simultaneously served as Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. While serving as a judge advocate he earned two commendation medals and one achievement medal.

Chief Judge Brudzinski was admitted to practice in Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania; the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia; the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit; the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; and, the Supreme Court of the United States.

His professional affiliations include the American Bar Association – Judicial Division; the Federal Administrative Law Judges Conference; the National Association of Administrative Law Judiciary; and, the Maritime Law Association of the United States.